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**Description**

**Electric motor, in particular a fan motor**

10 The invention relates to an electric motor having a  
stator and a rotor, with the rotor having at least one  
permanent magnet and a rotor shaft and being mounted  
radially and axially, and with the stator having at  
least two coils which produce a rotating magnetic  
15 field, by means of which the rotor can be driven, when  
alternating currents flow through them, in particular  
for use as a blower fan.

Motors such as these are known from the prior art,  
20 whose rotor is produced axially, by means of an axial  
bearing of the rotor shaft in a sintered bearing. A  
disadvantage of these motors is that increased wear  
between the sintered bearing and the rotor shaft  
initially causes a high level of noise emission, then  
25 leading to total failure of the motor. The object of  
the invention is thus to specify a motor which has a  
long life while at the same time producing low noise  
emissions.

30 According to the invention, this object is achieved in  
that the rotor is mounted by means of an elastic thrust  
ring, with the thrust ring being arranged axially on  
one side of the rotor. This axial bearing results in  
permanent axial bearing.

35 The motor can be used in any position, if a second  
elastic thrust ring is arranged axially on the other  
side of the rotor. Depending on its current position,  
the rotor can thus load the first or second thrust ring  
continuously, or the first and second thrust ring  
40 alternately. Furthermore, the elasticity of the thrust

rings prevents impact noise since, when the load on the thrust rings is changed, the elastic thrust rings damp out any striking of the rotor in a sprung manner.

- 5 Elastic thrust rings which are composed of a rubber-like plastic matrix and to one side of which microfibers are applied are particularly preferable. These thrust rings have a particularly long life, since the microfibers do not become detached from the plastic
- 10 matrix. If the microfibers are arranged distributed stochastically on the plastic matrix, this avoids any comb effect even when the motor rotates continuously in one direction.
- 15 The use of a lubricant in the elastic thrust ring results in even lower friction drag on the respective thrust ring, so that the rotor can reach a high rotation speed, thus floating on the elastic thrust ring and hence further reducing the wear coefficients.
- 20 A low-viscosity lubricant is particularly preferable in this case, since this results in particularly lower friction drag on the thrust rings.
- 25 If a recess is formed in the stator in order to accommodate the thrust rings, this makes it possible to reliably prevent lubricant from emerging in specific regions of the motor.
- 30 It is likewise possible to arrange one or more elastic thrust rings in a respective indentation in the rotor. A conical configuration of the recess or indentation in the stator or in the rotor, respectively, makes it possible for the lubricant which emerges from the
- 35 elastic thrust ring when the latter is loaded to gather at points provided for this purpose and to be sucked up from there once again when the load is removed from the elastic thrust ring.

A stop in the stator, by means of which the axial movement of the rotor shaft can be limited when additional components are being mounted on the rotor shaft, makes it possible for the components to be  
5 pressed axially onto the rotor shaft without the elastic thrust rings being excessively compressed and hence without destroying the structures of the thrust rings and limiting the amount of lubricant forced out of the elastic thrust rings.

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A capillary gap in order to accommodate lubricants sucks up lubricants which are forced out during operation and/or assembly. When the load on the thrust ring is removed, the thrust ring can absorb the  
15 lubricant once again, due to the capillary effect.

Particularly simple radial bearing can be achieved by the rotor shaft being polished in the region of the radial bearing points.

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The rotor can be produced particularly easily if the permanent magnet is embedded in plastic.

The motor can be designed to be particularly compact if  
25 the stator is designed as a winding body with coils which are fit on it, and if the rotor is arranged inside the winding body.

The abovementioned physical form can be produced  
30 particularly easily if two crossing coils are fit on the winding body.

If there is a phase separation between the alternating currents in the individual coils which corresponds to  
35 the angle of the individual coils to one another, the motor efficiency is high.

If the alternating currents are additionally sinusoidal, this results in the motor running particularly quietly, with little vibration.

- 5 Its quiet running characteristics mean that the motor described above is particularly suitable for operation as a fan motor with a fan impeller mounted on the rotor shaft.
- 10 The invention will be explained in more detail in the following text with reference to the figures and for a particularly preferable exemplary embodiment. In the figures:
- 15 Figure 1 shows a section through a particularly preferred thrust ring  
Figure 2 shows a partial section through a particularly preferred rotor  
Figure 3 shows a view and a partial section of a  
20 particularly preferred motor with the fan impeller detached and with a rotor from Figure 2 and thrust rings from Figure 1  
Figure 4 shows the partial section A from Figure 3.
- 25 An elastic thrust ring 1 has a rubber-like plastic matrix 2, composed of soft PVC for example, to one side of which microfibers 3, composed of cut nylon flock for example, are applied which are preferably distributed stochastically. This means that there is no comb effect  
30 when they are passed over continuously in one direction. The fibers are repeatedly raised and form small capillaries, which are particularly suitable for absorbing liquids. It is also possible to use a simple felt disk, which may be closed on one side, provided  
35 the requirements are not too stringent.

In Figure 2, a rotor 4 has a rotationally symmetrical annular permanent magnet 5, which is connected via a magnet mounting 6 composed of plastic to a rotor shaft

7. The magnet mounting 6 has a thrust surface 6a at one of its axial ends. At its other axial end, the magnet mounting 6 has an indentation 8 in order to at least partially accommodate an elastic thrust ring 1 with a thrust surface 8a.

In Figure 3, the rotor 4 from Figure 2 is provided with a fan impeller 9 and is mounted radially in bearing regions 10, 11 of a stator which is designed as a winding body and comprises a winding body upper part 12 and a winding body lower part 13. Axially, the rotor 4 is mounted in a floating manner via two thrust rings 1a, 1b in the indentation 8 in the rotor 4 and in a recess 14 in the winding body lower part 13.

The permanent magnet 5 which is embedded in the magnet mounting 6 is pressed onto the rotor shaft 7. A roughened region 15 is applied in the corresponding joint region of the rotor shaft 7, in order to enhance the firm seat. The rotor shaft 7 is polished in regions of the radial mounting 17, 18 in the winding body 12, 13, in order to reduce the friction.

The thrust rings 1a, 1b are arranged in the indentation 8 in the rotor 4 and in the recess 14 in the winding body lower part 13 such that the sides with the microfibers 3a, 3b face the thrust surfaces 6a, 8a formed on the magnet mounting 6 on the rotor 4. The relative movement takes place between the respective fiber side 3a, 3b of the thrust ring 1a, 1b and the rotor 4 with the thrust surfaces 6a, 6b. The thrust rings 1a, 1b are fixed with respect to the stator, which is in the form of the winding bodies 12, 13, when under load. This is achieved by the coefficient of friction between the rubber-like plastic matrix 2 and the stator being higher than that between the microfibers 3 and the rotor 4.

Low-viscosity lubricant is introduced into the fibers of the thrust rings 1a, 1b.

5 The rotor 4 may also be composed completely of magnetic material.

Figure 4 shows a capillary gap 19, which can hold lubricant which is forced out of the thrust ring 1a.

10 The motor can be installed in any desired position, so that, depending on the application, the axial contact force is passed via the thrust ring 1a or 1b into the thrust surface 6a or 8a. If installed horizontally, both thrust rings 1a, 1b are loaded alternately.

15 In order to fit the fan impeller 9 or other functional elements onto the rotor shaft 7 a very high axial force must be applied, once, to the rotor. During this procedure, the thrust ring 1a is compressed until the  
20 shaft abuts against a stop 19 which is in the form of a metal ball. Provided it is sufficiently stiff, stop 19 may also be formed from the plastic of the stator, which is in the form of the winding bodies 12, 13. The pressing-on forces are now absorbed by the stop 19, and  
25 not by the thrust ring 1a and the magnet mounting 6.

The lubricant which is forced out by the compression can enter the capillary gap 19. Once the pressing-on process has been completed, load is removed from the  
30 thrust ring 1a, and the lubricant located in the capillary gap 19 is sucked back into the fibers 3a of the thrust ring 1a.

35 In the indentation 8, the bearing is protected against loss of lubricant firstly by the capillary effect of the fibers 3b as described above and secondly by the arrangement of the thrust ring 1b in the indentation 8 in the rotor 4. Any lubricant which may emerge due to rotation gathers here in the corner contour of the

indentation 8 and, when the motor is stationary, can migrate back again into the fibers 3b of the thrust ring 1b by virtue of the capillary effect.